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GENERAL

1. US representation in Schuman plan talks opposed--US Ambassador Bruce in Paris expresses the view that the US should continue to manifest general support for the Schuman proposal to pool the French and German coal and steel industries but should not become directly involved in the preliminary stage of negotiations and thereby limit US freedom of judgment concerning the plan that may emerge. Bruce believes that the US should not be represented, even by observers, on the working committees at this stage, and observes that the French will be eager to keep the US informed of developments. Bruce feels that active US participation would be misinterpreted, declaring that even the appearance of American direction will jeopardize acceptance of the proposal in France. Bruce considers it important that all US representatives abroad adopt a common attitude on the Schuman proposal. He adds that these views are concurred in by US Ambassador Harriman.



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